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DE RUEHLM #0316 0871233
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 271233Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7926
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0813
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 7805
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1357
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 5989
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4332
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1936
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 4331
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 3427
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 8413
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

UNCLAS COLOMBO 000316

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA AND SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [OVIP](#) [CE](#)
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: SAARC SUMMIT IN COLOMBO JULY 27 -
AUGUST 3, 2008

¶1. (SBU) The Sri Lankan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Protocol Chief confirmed to DCM the following dates for the 15th SAARC Summit, to be held in Colombo July 27 to August 3:
July 27-28: 32nd session, SAARC Programming Committee (DG level)
July 29-30: 35th session, SAARC Standing Committee (Foreign Secretaries)

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July 31-August 1: 30th session, Council of Ministers (Foreign Ministers)
August 2-3: Summit (heads of state/government)

¶2. (U) The venue for Summit meetings will be the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). According to the MFA, Colombo city hotels have been identified to accommodate around 1200 delegates and media personnel. The GSL determined that Kandy (the originally planned summit venue) did not possess adequate infrastructure to host the summit itself. Kandy is being retained as the venue for some ancillary events such as the SAARC Cultural Festival, SAARC Youth Forum, SAARC Folklore Congress, and activities in the field of trade and investment.
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